

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-11 H-01 INT-05 L-03 NSC-05 PM-05 USIA-06
OES-07 SS-15 ACDA-12 NRC-05 CEQ-01 /146 W
-----053403 162231Z /15

R 162137Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4955
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, EEC, EFIN, PINT
SUBJ: ETUC DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 2615; (B) BRUSSELS 2741; (C)
BRUSSELS 2960

1. GENERAL SECRETARY MATHIAS HINTERSCHIED MET FOR AN
HOUR WITH BRUSSELS-BASED LABOR ATTACHES FEB. 15 TO BRIEF
THEM ON ETUC DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY THE FEB. 9-10
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE FOLLOWING ITEMS
SUPPLEMENT INFORMATION REPORTED IN REFTELS.

2. AGRICULTURAL PRICES. THE FEB. 9-10 ETUC EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE ADOPTED A RESOLUTION SAYING IT WAS "PREPARED
TO ACCEPT" THE COMMISSION'S MODEST FARM PRICE PROPOSALS
FOR 1978/79 (1977 BRUSSELS 18327),BUT URGED REFORM OF

THE EC COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP) TO TAKE MORE ACCOUNT OF CONSUMER INTERESTS. THE ETUC ALSO ASKED THAT "A COMMUNITY CONFERENCE BE HELD IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN ORDER THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS, FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS, TRADE UNIONS, AND THE COMMISSION CAN CONSIDER TOGETHER THE FUTURE OF THE CAP."

3. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COMPANIES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO ADOPTED A RESOLUTION SAYING IT "WILL CLOSELY MONITOR THE PERFORMANCE OF EUROPEAN COMPANIES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE EC CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COMPANIES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND WILL CONTINUE TO INSIST ON THE INTRODUCTION OF BINDING RULES RATHER THAN VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS." ACCORDING TO ETUC DEPUTY SECRETARY STERNER, REPORTS RECEIVED SO FAR SHOW THAT SUCH COMPANIES HAVE SHOWN AN "ARROGANT" ATTITUDE TOWARD THE EC CODE--EVIDENCE, IN THE ETUC'S VIEW, THAT THE CODE NEEDS TEETH BEFORE EMPLOYERS WILL PAY ANY ATTENTION TO IT.

4. ENERGY POLICY. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED A REPORT FAVORING CAUTIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN EUROPE, BUT DID NOT TAKE ACTION ON IT. THE REPORT, PROPOSED BY AN AD HOC COMMITTEE MADE UP LARGELY OF UNIONISTS FROM THE ENERGY SECTOR, WAS REFERRED TO A NEWLY CREATED "COORDINATING" COMMITTEE ON ENERGY WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL INCLUDE MORE REPRESENTATIVES FROM NATIONAL FEDERATIONS. HINTERSCHIED GAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR FAILURE TO ADOPT THE REPORT, BUT A SECRETARIAT SOURCE SAID THAT THE REASON WAS THE VIGOROUS OPPOSITION OF DUTCH UNIONS, WHICH ARE OPPOSED TO FURTHER NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT UNTIL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF REPROCESSING AND NUCLEAR WASTE HAVE BEEN FOUND.

5. EUROPEAN MONETARY UNION. IN A BRIEF REFERENCE TO AN ETUC MEETING FEB. 9 WITH EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ROY JENKINS (REF C), HINTERSCHIED SAID JENKINS' PROPOSALS ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION (EMU) DID NOT EVOKE A POSITIVE RESPONSE BECAUSE THE COMMUNITY SHOULD TAKE CONCRETE STEPS TO SOLVE UNEMPLOYMENT "RATHER THAN ENGAGE IN ACADEMIC AND THEORETICAL DISCUSSIONS." HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT ETUC WOULD BE WILLING TO ENGAGE IN A DIALOGUE WITH THE COMMISSION ON EMU AT SOME LATER TIME.

6. EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE. THE ETUC IS ALREADY RECRUITING PEOPLE FOR THE INSTITUTE'S STAFF, AND IS SEEKING OFFICE SPACE FOR THEM. NO AGREEMENT WITH THE EC

COMMISSION ON FINANCING THE INSTITUTE HAS YET BEEN SIGNED, BUT IN THE ETUC'S JUDGMENT THIS IS A MERE FORMALITY SINCE THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAS ALREADY ALLOCATED \$615,000 FOR THE INSTITUTE'S INITIAL ANNUAL BUDGET (REFTEL A, PARA 6). IN ADDITION, THE EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION (EFTA) HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO MAKE A GRANT TO THE INSTITUTE, BUT SO FAR HAS NOT SPECIFIED THE AMOUNT.

7. FRENCH CGT. EC COMMISSIONER CLAUDE CHEYSSON OF FRANCE IS DEMANDING THAT THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CGT OF FRANCE, WHICH IS NOT AN ETUC AFFILIATE, BE INCLUDED ON THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITLTE'S BOARD AND IN ITS

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ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, THE INSTITUTE WILL NOT BE OPEN TO ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE THE ETUC'S FOLD, HINTERSCHIED SAID. (SEE REFTTEL B FOR ANOTHER RECENT EXAMPLE OF ETUC'S TURNING A COLD SHOULDER TOWARD THE CGT.)

8. WORKER PARTICIPATION. ALTHOUGH THE ETUC FAVORS INCREASED PARTICIPATION BY WORKERS IN JOB DECISIONS AFFECTING THEM, HINTERSCHIED SAID THAT THE ETUC HAS "NOT FIXED ON ANY ONE FORM" OF PARTICIPATION (I.E., THE ETUC HAS NOT EMBRACED THE GERMAN FORM OF PARTRICIPATION--CODETERMINATION--AS THE MODEL THAT SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE ADOPTED THROUGHOUT WESTERN EUROPE). REMINDED THAT THE EC COMMISSION IS REDRAFTING A DIRECTIVE ON THIS SUBJECT, HINTERSCHIED SAID THE DIRECTIVE "DOES NOT HAVE A HIGH PRIORITY" WITH THE COMMISSION AT PRESENT.

9. NEXT ETUC CONGRESS. THE TRIENNIAL ETUC CONGRESS WILL BE HELD AT THE END OF APRIL 1979 IN GERMANY (CITY NOT YET DETERMINED), AT THE INVITATION OF ETUC PRESIDENT HEINZ OSKAR VETTER OF THE DGB. HINTON

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